

clinic; surpassing some other fellow. "Losing patients to hospitals" has much the same etiology as the dispensary evil; personal selfishness and greed; it, too, is an evil within the profession for members of the medical profession permit it. It is unfair to blame the public for what we ourselves permit to be done to us; the layman is merely a human being and as such will take anything free that is offered him; he is as keen to get something for nothing as is the doctor! Let it not be thought that these remarks in the *Long Island Medical Journal* are from the pen of some irresponsible "socialist"; they are signed "Paul M. Pilcher." Another editorial in the same issue, dealing with the same subject, pleads for some great leader who shall make "practically effective the principle that service rendered the sick poor should be a charge upon the State." Why should the state pay anything when physicians themselves are falling over each other in the desire to give this service for nothing? Again, an evil within our own profession which we must cure and not ask to have the public cure it for us. And further, the advertising pages of this same journal show another evil; the editorial writers, who presumably are members, live and speak and write on an exalted plane of beneficence but they are willing to participate in the proceeds of the nostrum parasite by accepting the advertisements of Fellows' syrup; Gray's glycerine tonic; bovinine; sanmetto; salhepatica; anti-phlogistine; glycothymoline; Hagge's cordial; ergoapiol. Begin to clean house and cure your own diseases, gentlemen of Long Island, and the public will have more respect for you; there is no single evil of which you have spoken that is not of a cause and an existence within yourselves.

From Oklahoma comes a loud wail of anguish because the "rights" of the physician are in danger at the hands of legislature and congress and the open demand is made that physicians should establish a medical lobby and raise a fund for that purpose. What singular degradation! A learned profession to engage in the dirtiest of all occupations! And what "rights" has a physician? If laws regulating the practice of medicine were intended for the benefit of physicians, they would be unconstitutional; they are intended to protect the public against ignorance; if the public ceases to desire this protection, then the laws are changed and the people suffer. From Kansas comes the cry that the medical profession does not have the standing and the respect that it should have and the blame is placed upon the public for lack of sufficient appreciation. Everywhere the same condition of unrest, of antagonism to scientific medicine, is at last being noticed by those who should have seen it begin several years ago. But most of the unpleasant symptoms are due to faulty metabolism—or something worse—in the body medical. From one of our own counties comes the cry that members are taking the \$3.00 fee for insurance examinations and the request to know what the society can do about it. It is stupidly simple;

it is one of our own personal ailments; if no decent doctor would accept less than \$5.00 that would be the minimum fee. If no decent doctor would take the pennies that come from the lodge practice business, then regular fees would be paid for the work. If "professors" and others of less magnitude would refrain from the mad scramble to get "material," then we would not have the clinic abuse. If physicians would not work for hospitals or hospital associations for less than their regular fees, then we would not have the hospital abuse. If physicians were to follow closely the path of common honesty, then we would not have the public disapproval of that petty graft, division of fees and commissions from druggists and similar concerns. Some oculists expect and demand as much as fifty or sixty per cent. "commission" from the optician to whom they send their patients for glasses. When are we going to begin to clean house? Shall we do it ourselves or shall we wait until the public does it, forcibly and unpleasantly, for us? An applicant at the last examination of the Board of Medical Examiners called upon a number of physicians in San Francisco, said he was going to locate there, mentioned the line of work he would take up and stated that he would pay a regular "commission" of 50% for all work sent to him. He passed and got his license and doubtless already has some business; is he any worse than the men who accept the "commission"? Can we ask for or expect much public esteem when we do that sort of thing?

The *Lancet-Clinic*, of Cincinnati, in its issue for September 28th, contains an editorial entitled "Political Duty of the Profession." It is quite an interesting editorial and re-cites the improvement in college standards and work since 1896 when a state law creating a licensing board went into effect, and the better quality of physician thus furnished to the people of Ohio. "It would seem that this advanced professional standard should meet universal approval, and not be subject to constant attacks as it is in every session of the legislature." The article then goes on to state the fact that, somehow, this improved standard does not meet with "universal approval"; that various interests, cults, sects, patent medicine people and the like are banded together to do away with the protection to the public afforded by the medical law. "To preserve our present standard, a determined fight must be made. Those who would prey on the sick and ignorant are more aggressive and better organized than they have been for years." Etc. Reading between the lines one may safely conclude that the situation in Ohio is much the same as it is in California and as complained of in the *Long Island Medical Journal*. The up-growing wave of unrest; of rebellion at control, even intellectual control; the demand of the ignorant for unlimited suicide—or what it calls "thought"—of "freedom" to choose its own mode of death. If the people want absolute freedom to be preyed upon, to have

and to hold and to develop diseases and epidemics, they will have it; we, as a profession, cannot fight them; *you cannot fight sense into anyone* any more than you can legislate honesty into anyone; you cannot fight a crazy man into sanity, and the people seem to have gone crazy. We extend a heartfelt and understood sympathy to Ohio for California is in no less danger from the insanity of its citizens.

The old order of things in California is changing very rapidly and soon we shall hardly know our own state. With the opening of **CHANGES** the canal there will be a wave of **COMING.** immigration into the Western coast of the United States that we shall be unable to realize until it actually begins. Already agents of at least three countries that supply the United States with a large proportion of its immigrants, have been located in California, studying conditions, making plans and preparing the way for what is to come; one of them has been here, it is said, for a year and a half. A large shipping firm in San Francisco has already contracted with one of the large steamship companies of the world to handle its business in San Francisco and arrangements have been completed for a direct line of steamers of large carrying capacity from the ports of Southern Europe to San Francisco for the almost exclusive purpose of bringing in immigrants. It is estimated that the cost of landing them in California will be only a very few dollars more than the cost to New York. What effect will this tremendous influx have upon the medical situation? Undoubtedly, a profound one; there will be a great influx of physicians—and quacks as well, if the wishes of the Governor, as he has been quoted, and of some of the "leaguers," eddyites and others are to be carried out by the legislature. Evil and chaotic days are sure to come and we might as well recognize the fact that they are coming and, in some small way, be ready. Every effort should be made to solidify our county medical units; to make them more and more the solid, scientific-medicine element of each community; to make membership in a county medical society a sort of "hall mark" in medicine.

The last Congress made an important change in the Postal Laws referring to second class mail; **CHANGE** dues of members of scientific societies **IN LAW.** are now definitely accepted as legitimate subscriptions provided the dues are not less than 50% of the subscription price of the publication issued by any such society. That means that hereafter there will be no confusion as to dues and subscription to the JOURNAL; the assessment for 1913 will be, as fixed by the House of Delegates last April, \$4.00 per member and every member will receive the JOURNAL.

The energetic efforts of the medical profession to protect the people against preventable diseases and epidemics are evidently **APPRECIATION?** neither desired nor appreciated by the people. In San **NO! ABUSE!** Francisco and other places, great resentment was expressed because the medical profession urged strict muzzling laws in order to stamp out rabies—a disease so easily prevented and yet so entirely incurable. In various parts of the State we have to-day smallpox; and *at last* the type has changed and become virulent, just as has been expected. And yet the people do not want protection against this easily prevented disease; they will wipe out even the present poor vaccination law at the next session of the Legislature. They will not allow the State Board of Health to properly guard and control sources of water supply, and so a number of sections are having epidemics of typhoid—another easily prevented disease. In the South, the physicians of Los Angeles forced an active and successful fight against poliomyelitis; did the people appreciate it? Not at all; they heaped abuse upon the men who had given their time and their work for the people's benefit. Quarantine "hurt business"! Dr. Powers, the health officer, was lied about and slandered to an unthinkable degree. In Riverside, an almost ideal community of intelligent people with a good and much respected medical society, poliomyelitis made its appearance with a mortality of one-third. The health officer was energetic and soon had the epidemic stopped. Did the intelligent community appreciate his effort? Not at all. The moving-picture men and other business men instigated an attack upon the health officer that seriously injured his practice and he resigned, after stopping an epidemic of a deadly and easily preventable disease. The interests prevail; the freaks and agitators are paramount; the people do not want to be protected from contagious or preventable diseases. It is foolish of us, as a profession, to try to force intelligence into the people at large. Let them take their dose of smallpox, typhoid, poliomyelitis, rabies and everything else they want. Let us have a really good epidemic of smallpox and then see what the people want to do about it. It is wrong for us to try to thrust our services upon them; they should come to us and ask for our assistance, when it will be cheerfully given; and then they will appreciate it. The cry of the freaks is "freedom of thought; freedom for the sick person to be treated by anyone and in any way he desires." That simply means freedom for the individual to commit suicide in any way he chooses or be robbed to the limit. But if that is what the people, for the moment, want—why, then let them have it; let them take their dose of bitter medicine and get over with it. What sense is there in serving them merely for the reward of abuse, when they don't want the service?